



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

April 2025

The Gleaner is a publication of:

Immanuel Lutheran Church
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Immanuel has an online church directory. Visit our website and check it out!
Contact the office for your username and password.

Mission
Joyfully Christian.
Humbly Serving.
Boldly Loving.



Saturday, April 12th at 11am at Immanuel
Please help us to spread the word!!

A Letter from Pr. Dana.....

Friends in Christ,

The beauty of Holy Week calls us once again to journey toward the foot of the cross where we're reminded vividly that generosity lies at the very heart of God. God's extravagant gift to us in Christ not only transforms us, but compels us into lives marked by generosity and purpose. As Easter dawns and resurrection bursts forth, we too are invited into new life—renewed, generous, and authentic.

With joyful anticipation, we share with you the culmination of thoughtful discernment, prayerful conversation, and intentional listening: our new strategic plan. It's not merely a list of tasks but a vision that propels us forward, inviting us all to participate in shaping our future together.

First, we invite everyone to a congregational meeting to dive deeper into this plan. We'll share insights gained through months of listening, learning, and growing together, and discuss how these conversations led us here. Your voice and heart matter greatly as we walk forward together. (The date for this meeting is TBD).

Second, we're addressing something close to many hearts: our blended worship style. If you've felt spiritually unsettled by the mix of contemporary and traditional music, we sincerely want to hear from you. We're holding a special conversation to offer space for sharing your experience and listening as we explain the thoughtful intentions behind our music choices. Together, we'll explore meaningful ways to nurture spiritually fulfilling worship for all. (Tentatively scheduled for Sunday, June 29 following worship).

Finally, our Stewardship team—Dave Keilitz, Ted Tuma, and Diane Thomas—is faithfully preparing to launch our June stewardship campaign. Their diligent work will help us transparently communicate our current financial landscape and share clearly the needs and dreams for sustaining our mission and ministries.

Generosity, rooted deeply in Christ, empowers our mission. As we embrace this strategic plan, may we step forward together, generous in heart, spirit, and resources—fully alive and transformed by the resurrection, boldly trusting that God's abundant love is indeed powerful enough to renew our congregation and our community.

Journeying together,
Pastor Dana Hendershot

Pastor Dana out-of-town

Theological Round Table – April 11-12

Theological discernment and expression vary across cultural and ethnic communities. The ELCA Theological Roundtable will actively invite participation from communities traditionally underrepresented in theological discussions. This initiative seeks to foster openness to diverse theological perspectives, support emerging theologians, and strengthen relationships, enriching the church's collective wisdom.

Ecumenical Round Table – April 24-26 This year, the Ecumenical Round Table for Science and Faith, is a gathering of Presbyterians, Catholics, and the ELCA. The theme this year is: Mental Health and Thriving: A New Framework for Theology Engaging Cognitive (Neuro) Science.

Vacation- April 28 – May 5

Sunday, May 4, John Soyster will be preaching and presiding

Lenten Opportunities at Immanuel

Lenten Small Groups

We will be offering opportunities to join a small group. You are welcome to stick with the same one each week, or if your schedule gets crazy feel free to switch what time you attend. Each of the small groups will study the same weekly content. Sign-up at church or call of the office.

- Option 1: Sunday after worship
11:30AM-ish
April 6
- Option 2: Tuesdays
9:30AM: Led by Judy Emmons
April 8
- Option 3: Tuesdays after the Lenten service
6:30PM-ish: Led by the Burkes
April 8



Lenten Almsgiving

Lutheran Disaster Response:
California Wild Fires

Mission Endowment has
agreed to match our alms
giving up to \$2,000!



Prayer Around the Cross

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall
on Tuesdays during Lent at 6:00pm.

April 1st- Sighs too Deep for Words

April 8th- For the Healing of the Nation

Good Friday

April 18 at 6:00 P.M.

Please consider signing up to do a reading
for Good Friday. We will rehearse for the
service on Good Friday (April 18) from 3:30 –
4:30 P.M. if you want to read and are not
available at the time talk with Pastor Dana.

The parts include:

Psalm 22
Judas
Peter
The Garden
Pilate
Crucifixion

Lenten Theme



When I was little my dad had a Jacques Cousteau encyclopedia collection. It sat on a book shelf around a big sliding glass door, offering an immense amount of natural light and a view of our wooded backyard. The encyclopedias were low on the shelves, just the right height for a little girl. I would flip through the underwater photos and escape into this beautiful new world to explore.

I grew up in Michigan with a family that didn't travel much outside of Michigan or Ohio. So, the first time I saw the ocean, it was glorious. I was in high school, traveling with my mother, who was in her forties. I was visiting a college out west, and she took me to the Pacific Ocean! It was her first time seeing it, too, and she shared my glee. I didn't want to just see it; I wanted to be out on it, so we went whale watching. It was like living the pages I had dreamed about as I sifted through the encyclopedias in that Michigan light.

What I didn't know about was seasickness. That reality wasn't in the pages of the books I had so adored! My dream world quickly turned green and nauseating. Surprisingly, it didn't stop my joy. In the midst of that suffering, I was still living a dream.

Who knew, three years later, I'd be studying in the Florida Keys for a semester. As part of our study, we went out on an oceanographic vessel for a few days in the Atlantic. It is probably one of the most profound experiences of my life, and I never would have gone if I'd let my seasickness hold me back.

Joy and suffering coexist. This book will take you on a journey through the playful theology of God at work in the ordinary, everyday things of life—from playing in the snow and the rain to the profound experience of being treated for Large Cell B Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. And yes, I found joy and insights into life and love on the darkest days. I hope you do, too.

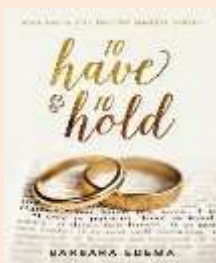
Don't like what's going on? Change your angle, turn the wheel on the kaleidoscope through which you're viewing life, and God will transform the mundane and the suffering into joy—it is beautiful. *Kalos* is the Greek word for beautiful—it is a beautiful faith. We were created by the same God, and we each see her a little differently. I wonder what God will reveal to you in these pages.

~Pr. Dana

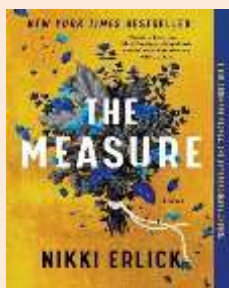
Ministry with Each Other

Immanuel Book Group

In **April** (April 7 at 6:30pm), we're reading To have and to Hold by Barbara Edema. This is the second book in the Pastor Maggie series. This is a feel-good novel set in Chelsea, MI.



In **May** (May 5 at 6:30pm OR May 8 at 10:30am), we're reading The Measure by Nikki Erlich. This was a New York Times Bestseller and Read with Jenna TODAY show book club pick.



Sunday Helpers needed!!

Each Sunday, we need volunteers to serve in the following capacities:
Altar Guild, Assisting Minister, Coffee Host, Greeters & Ushers.

Please sign up by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/?go=c.SignUpSearch&eid=08C6C8DCF5C8F6630C&cs=09CBBAD98FC58B167B0A640F5BC09BCDFDB5>

If you would like to occasionally receive scripture/inspirational texts from Pastor Dana, please text "Trinity" to 474747 to sign up.

Easter Flowers



If you would like to purchase Easter altar flowers, order forms will be available in the narthex and should be turned in no later than Sunday, April 13th.



Ministry with Each Other

**WE'RE
HIRING** *Mt. Pleasant*
JOB FAIR

hosted by
Immanuel Lutheran Church

Thursday, April 24th, 1-4pm



CAMPUS MINISTRY

Sunday, April 13th at 1pm
Please join us for lunch!

Welcome, New Members!

On Sunday, March 16th, Immanuel welcomed several new members to our congregation.

Please welcome:

Sheri Blackwell, Jana, Melanie, Teddy & Andy Gibbs,
Erin, Sophie & Delia Ludwig and Cadence Schuette



- 4 **Ben Strandskov**
- 9 **Carol Erickson**
- 11 **Dawn Moss**
- 12 **Larae Fedor**
- 16 **Ann Ferguson**
- 18 **Mike Piatek-Jimenez**
- 20 **Thomas Mellinger**
- 21 **Gary Ramsower**
- Thomas Strandskov**
- 29 **Jan Eversole**


Celebration
— OF LIFE —
MEMORIAL SERVICE

The following services
will be held at Immanuel
in the near future:

Lorraine Tubbs,
May 10th

John Warriner
June 1st

Art Kanne
July 22nd

Ministry with Community & World

Thank you
to all of you who donated gift cards for all of the local elementary school paraprofessionals, as well as those who donated food for local students to eat during their Spring Break (when school meals are not available.) Together, we're making a difference!

The Care Store
is always in need of household items! When you buy one for your home, consider buying one for someone in need. Place these items on the shelf in the hallway by the office and we'll get them delivered to those who need them.



PADDLE AUCTION • DINNER • CASH BAR • FUN
SATURDAY, MAY 3RD, 2025
DOORS OPEN AT 5PM • DINNER SERVED AT 6PM
SACRED HEART PARISH CENTER

WHAT IS A PADDLE AUCTION?
It's part raffle, part auction!
Guests receive a numbered paddle they use to bid on incredible items using quarters.
Bids range in increments from \$.25 to \$5.00.

TICKET OPTIONS

\$50 General Admission: Dinner at our soup/salad/dessert buffet and auction paddle. Bring or purchase quarters to bid!
Tables of 8 guests (\$400) or 10 guests (\$500) available.

\$200 All-In Admission: Includes all general benefits plus bidding option on every item. No quarters needed!

All-In Table: Includes all items above at a \$25 savings per guest. Tables of 8 guests (\$1,400) or 10 guests (\$1,750) available.

Register by April 1, 2025 to be eligible for dinner for two drawing at the event!

TICKET, SPONSORSHIP, AND ADVERTISING OPTIONS
Credit/debit payments available via QR code.
Cash or check payable to ICRH.
More info by request at icrh@icrhouse.org.
Guests must be 18+ to attend.



Community Input: Praises and Pinches

To be a healthy, faithful community, Immanuel needs to be open with what we expect in all areas of life. If there is anything in our community life that brings joy or causes concern, please share any feelings and questions. Thank you for taking the time to communicate ways we are doing well in our ministry at Immanuel and the areas that need attention. Your Mutual Ministry Team needs your feedback. If you would like a personal response to your "praise" or "pinch," please be sure to sign this form at the bottom.

To discuss a concern directly with the Mutual Ministry Team or one of the Team members, please indicate below.

Praises: _____

Pinches: _____

Desired Outcome: _____

Is it OK to publish in Gleaner? __Yes __No (Name must be posted if you wish for this to appear in Gleaner.)

A specific question I would like answered: _____

Name _____

Business Ministry

Volunteers needed for Church Lawn Mowing

For more than twenty years, members of the church have mowed the lawn. The church has several riding lawn mowers including two zero-turn machines. The front lawn is mowed about 25 times each season while the back lawn is mowed about 15 times.

We mow in teams. The front takes about two hours to mow and the back about the same two hours. A group of two people on riding mowers and one person doing the trim work can be done in an hour and a half.

A mowing schedule will be published in mid-April. We hope to assemble about six groups to do the mowing.

If you are able to help with the mowing, please contact Chuck Clise at 989 330-4751.

Financial Monthly Report YTD as of February 2025

Spending Plan 2024-2025
\$388,029

Actual Expenditures:
\$158,430

Giving to Date:
\$148,050

Giving Statements

For your convenience, we will be sending out Quarterly Giving statements via email (rather than just annual statements).

First quarter statements will be sent out at some point near the end of April.

Contributing Stocks or Bonds

To contribute capital gain property such as stocks or bonds to the church, per IRS Publication 526 you can deduct the Fair Market Value of the asset on your personal tax returns - not the basis in the asset. Immanuel has a brokerage account to facilitate the transfer of these assets directly. If you are interested, please contact the church for information or assistance.

Tax Break for contributions – people over 70 1/2 years-old

If you are over 70.5 did you know that you can give directly from your retirement account to Immanuel Lutheran Church and no pay taxes on the gift? Due to the tax changes that include a higher standard deduction and the elimination of the personal exemption it is possible the best tax benefit for contributions to the church is to give directly from your retirement account.